

Inside Wallops

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Atlantic Fish Kill Lands Several Thousand on Wallops Island

Runoff from the recent heavy rains is likely one factor in a set of circumstances which came together last week resulting in a major fish kill on



Dead fish wash up on Wallops Island. Photo By Josh Bundick

the seaside of the Shore. On Friday morning, July 30, 2004, a high number of large croaker either dead or dying washed up on both sides of the barrier islands and in the tidal creeks of the back barrier sounds from Assateague to Smith Island (both Accomack and Northampton counties).

Dr. Mark Luckenback from the Eastern Shore lab at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Wachapreague, said that with the first reports of the dead fish, water samples were taken for examination for toxic algae and for testing to look for bacteria. He said the fact that the fish kill is so widespread and affects just one species doesn't support a suspicion of a large toxic event.

According to Luckenback, there were no signs of net damage on fish taken from the Wachapreague Inlet. Externally the fish appeared to be healthy and robust. The gills did show signs of extreme stress, which is typical with low oxygen levels.

Because of the suddenness of the event, Luckenback believes that it is a widespread low oxygen event of the tidal creeks and shallow back barrier sounds, which was exacerbated by high rainfall, calm conditions, spring tide, hot water, etc.

This is not uncommon in summer during the spring tides, which occur with a new or full moon, resulting in even more of the oxygen deprived marsh being exposed to runoff.

Extreme heat had already lowered the oxygen levels and the exceptionally heavy rainfall experienced on the Shore in recent days led to tremendous amounts of runoff in the marshes.

Although these events usually involve more species, especially menhaden, other fish species do not seem to have been affected. There also have been no reports of dead marine mammals.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

The Kwajalein Hourglass
"EQUIS II Begins"

Change in Office Title

NASA Wallops Flight Facility's Shuttle Small Payloads Project Office, (SSPPO), has been given guidance from the Office of Space Flight, NASA Headquarters, to bring the Shuttle carrier programs to closure in 2005.

Effective immediately, the new name for the SSPPO organization is changed to the Educational Flight Projects Office, (EFPO).

Under guidelines from the Office of Education, NASA Headquarters, the EFPO will support educational flight projects for all NASA platforms beginning in 2006. The office will be the primary NASA interface to customer groups, provide safety verification and support all integration activities.

The new focus will concentrate on educational payloads providing inspirational hands-on learning to students of all ages.

The EFPO will reflect the direction of NASA's Office of Education and will concentrate efforts on student developed flight projects.

EQUIS II Launches

In 19 minutes the first salvo of three sounding rockets in NASA's EQUIS II mission were launched from Roi Namur on August 7.

The first launched was a NASA Terrier-Malemute carrying an experiment to investigate the electrodynamics of the post-sunset bottom-side equatorial F region ionosphere.

A NASA Terrier-Orion followed 15 minutes later and released a chemical trail of Tritimethyl Aluminum (TMA) to permit measurements of neutral wind profiles in three distinct locations.

Four minutes later, a second NASA Terrier-Orion also carrying a TMA release was launched. Early data indicates that the three rockets reached nominal altitude with good TMA trails and good data.

Dr. David Hysell, Cornell University, is the principal investigator for the three missions. John Hickman is the NASA Campaign Manager, and Bruce Scott is the NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), Mission Manager.

2004 EQUIS II Launches Begin



John Hickman Photo

The first salvo of sounding rockets ready for launch from Roi Namur.

2004 SHARP Students



Ed Parrott Photo

The 2004 NASA Sharp Students finish an eight week program at Wallops this week. They are (left to right): Samuel Arumala, Jennifer Higgins, Katrina LaCurts, and Melissa Waterfield

National Space Club Scholars



Ed Parrott Photo

This year's National Space Club Scholars have just completed a six week program. They are (left to right): Rachel Patterson, Andrew Bratten, Andrew Cropper, Joshua Barnes, and Kyle Shahan.

"Tools for Money Management: Pulse of the Market 2004"

WHO: Gail Ludwig, Financial Advisor - The Medallion Group, Salisbury, Md.

WHAT: Brown Bag Seminar (Bring your own lunch!)

WHEN: Wednesday, August 11, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Williamsburg Room, E-2 Cafeteria Building

WHY: Women Of Wallops, Federal Women's Program, Training Subcommittee presents the fourth in a series of the Working Woman's Tool Kit.

Career Coach Coming to Wallops

Career Coach, Lynda Jones, will be at Wallops for private appointments with Civil Service employees on Monday, August 16 and Tuesday, August 17 in the Building E-2, Training Room.

Some things that a career coach can help you do are;

- Align Your Career with Your Personal Values
- Balance Career, Life, and Relationships
- Create the BEST Resume or Job Application
- Determine Your Career Preferences
- Discover Your Strengths and Areas for Improvement
- Identify Training to Enhance Your Current Career
- Prepare for Career Changes
- Develop an Effective Individual Development Plan

To schedule an individual, confidential appointment contact Tracey White at extension 66-7823 or call Jones directly at extension 66-5794.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is coming to Wallops for a Blood Drive

When – Tuesday, August 10, 2004
Where - Building F-3 (Rocket Club)
Time- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call the Health Unit at x1766.

The need for blood donations continues to be great. Our Red Cross representatives are part of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Blood Services, and are based in Norfolk, VA.

LobsterFest

Friday, August 20, 2004

6 p.m.

\$15 per person



Tickets available at the Exchange in Building E-2.

Menu includes salad, corn-on-the-cob, baked potato, hush puppies, dessert, iced tea.

Tickets are limited, so get yours early.

Mark Your Calendar

WHO:

Martha Ackmann (Author, Editor, Journalist)

WHAT:

The Mercury 13: The Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight

WHEN:

Thursday, August 26.
11:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Williamsburg Room Luncheon Catered by WW Catering - \$5.00 per person

WHY:

Women Of Wallops, Federal Women's Program will celebrate Women's Equality Day by honoring the group of female pilots who underwent secret testing in 1961 in anticipation of becoming our country's first female astronauts.

For further information, contact Terry Ewell at x1133.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
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